

Serial No. 10/042,577

Drawing Amendments

There are no amendments to the drawings.

Serial No. 10/042,577

Remarks

The Office Action mailed 06/30/2005 rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,453,022 of J.B. Weinman, Jr. (hereafter referred to as Weinman) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,768,722 of H.P. Katseff, et al (hereafter referred to as Katseff). Further, the Office Action rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1 and 6 are being amended.

Rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Office Action states "The recited subject matter is so vague and indefinite, because how can the third one of the plurality of communication terminals re-enable the audio information received from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals when the audio information received from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals is already re-enabled by the second one of the plurality of communication terminals." Amended claim 1 recites:

A method for controlling a conference call of a plurality of communication terminals, comprising the steps of:

Serial No. 10/042,577

displaying on a first one of the plurality of communication terminals an identity of a second one of the plurality of communication terminals in response to a first signal from the first one of the plurality of communication terminals;

disabling audio information received from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals on the conference call in response to a second signal from the first one of the plurality of communication terminals;

re-enabling the audio information received from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals on the conference call in response to one of a third signal from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals after the audio information from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals had previously been disabled by the second signal or a fourth signal from a third one of the plurality of communication terminals after the audio information from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals had previously been disabled by the second signal.

Amended claim 1 clearly recites that either the third or fourth signal can re-enable the audio information.

Amended claim 1 clearly meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 2-5 are directly or indirectly dependent on amended claim 1 and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the same reasons as amended claim 1.

Rejection of Claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

The Office Action states "The recited subject matter is so vague and indefinite, because how can the third one of the

Serial No. 10/042,577

plurality of communication terminals re-enable the audio information received from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals when the audio information received from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals is already re-enabled by the second one of the plurality of communication terminals." Amended claim 6 recites:

A system for controlling a conference call comprising:

- a telecommunication switching system;

- a conference circuit;

- a plurality of communication terminals communicating with each other via the conference circuit;

- the telecommunication switching system responsive to a first actuation of a first button on a first one of the plurality of communication terminals for displaying an identity of a second one of the plurality of communication terminals on a display of the first one of the plurality of communication terminals;

- the telecommunication switching system further responsive to first actuation of a second button on the first one of the plurality of communication terminals for transmitting a first signal to the conference circuit;

- the conference circuit responsive to the first signal for inhibiting audio information from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals that is displayed on the display of the first one of the plurality of communication terminals from being communicated to the other ones of the plurality of communication terminals;

- the telecommunication switching system further responsive to a first actuation of a first button on a third one of the plurality of communication terminals for displaying an identity of the second one of the plurality of

Serial No. 10/042,577

communication terminals on a display of the third one of the plurality of communication terminals;

the telecommunication switching system further responsive to first actuation of a second button on the third one of the plurality of communication terminals for transmitting a third signal to the conference circuit; and

the conference circuit responsive to the third signal for allowing audio information from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals to be communicated again to the other ones of the plurality of communication terminals after the audio information had been previously inhibited from the second one of the plurality of communication terminals by the first signal.

Amended claim 6 clearly recites that only the third communication terminal is re-enabling the audio information.

Amended claim 6 clearly meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 7-10 are directly or indirectly dependent on amended claim 6 and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for the same reasons as amended claim 6.

Rejection of Claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A system in accordance with the steps recited in amended claim 1 would allow a first terminal to disable audio information from a second terminal being included in a conference call. Further, the second terminal can re-enable its audio information to be included in the conference after the audio information from the second terminal had been disabled by the first terminal or a third terminal can re-enable the audio information from the second terminal by overriding the

Serial No. 10/042,577

operations of the second signal. (See page 5, lines 3-15, page 7, lines 2-9, and FIG. 2.)

Weinman and Katseff separately or combined do not disclose that a third terminal distinct from the terminal (first terminal) that muted another terminal (second terminal) can unmute the other terminal.

In summary, amended claim 1 is patentable over Weinman in view of Katseff under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) since Weinman and Katseff separately or combined do not disclose the steps recited in amended claim 1. Claims 2-5, as presently in the application, are directly or indirectly dependent from amended claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 1.

Rejection of Claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A system in accordance with the steps recited in amended claim 6 would allow a first terminal to disable audio information from a second terminal being included in a conference call by transmission of a second signal. Further, audio information of the second terminal can be re-enabled to be included in the conference by a third terminal which overrides the operations of the second signal by transmission of a third signal.

In summary, amended claim 6 is patentable over Weinman in view of Katseff under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) since Weinman and Katseff separately or combined do not disclose

Serial No. 10/042,577

the steps recited in amended claim 6. Claims 7-10, as presently in the application, are directly or indirectly dependent from amended claim 6 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 6.

Summary

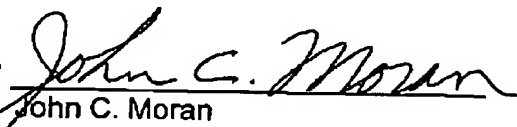
In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request consideration of amended claims 1 and 6, reconsideration of claims 2-5 and 7-10, as presently in the application, and allowance of these claims.

Although the foregoing is believed to be dispositive of the issues in the application, if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully,

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By


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